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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 24, 2012
TO: Building Owners & Elevator Contractors
FROM: Rick Merkle, Section Chief
SUBJECT: ADDITION OR ALTERATION TO ELEVATOR DOOR RE-OPENING DEVICE
(SAFETY EDGE)

Many owners are choosing to replace mechanical safety edges with newer infrared detectors. A mechanical car door safety edge is a device that will stop and reopen the elevator doors once they come into contact with an obstruction, while an infrared safety edge will stop and reopen the elevator doors without contacting the obstruction.

Question:

When is submittal of an application and fee required for the installation of an infrared car door reopening device?

Answer:

SPS 318.1013 (3) (b), Table 318.1013-4, Item 7 requires submittal of application and fee prior to the installation of an infrared type car door reopening device when:

1. the new reopening device is installed to replace an existing mechanical reopening device, and
2. the elevator is equipped with any type of fire-fighters emergency operation (fire service).

Elevators not equipped with fire-fighters emergency operation do not require submittal of application and fee, approval or immediate inspection of the installation of the infrared device. The inspection of the installation of a reopening device on such elevators will occur as part of the next annual inspection.

Please remember installation of these devices must comply with applicable requirements whether the installation requires approval and immediate inspection or does not. The installation of the device shall comply with all applicable codes including the following:

ASME A17.1, 8.7.2.13 and ICC/ANSI A117.1, 407.3.3 for proper operation of the device.

ASME A17.1, 8.6.1.4.1 and SPS 318.1708(2)(b) for recording of the work in the maintenance record.

NEC 620.22 for proper wiring of the device, not on a circuit required to be separate or dedicated for other purposes.

If approval to install is required, the elevator contractor should contact the inspector identified on the plan approval letter to schedule the inspection. Installation and inspection must be coordinated so the elevator may be returned to service upon completion of the inspection.

This will remain the department's position until the department accepts a change or later interpretation to this code requirement.